

Serial No. 09/857,553

Filed: June 5, 2001

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the application captioned above in view of the above amendments and the below remarks is requested.

With the above amendments, claims 4, 7, 8, 11, 12, 14, and 15 have been amended and claim 1 has been canceled. Claims 4, 7, 8, 11, 12, 14, and 15 have been amended to incorporate the language of claim 1. An amendment transmittal letter showing an additional fee for claims remaining after amendment is also enclosed.

In the Office Action, the Patent Office allowed claims 3 and 16 to 26, objected to claims 4 to 9 and 11 to 15, and rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Gaschler *et al.* (United States Patent No. 6492093).

With the above amendments, Applicant submits that the concerns of the Patent Office have been addressed. Withdrawal of the rejection and issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

It is noted that applicant had sent a response to the United States Patent and Trademark Office on November 3, 2003 via facsimile to the fax number within the Office Action, (703) 305-7718, but an auto-reply acknowledgement was not received. A call was made on November 13, 2003 to the Group receptionist to see if the fax was received. The Group receptionist stated that the 305-7718 fax number was old and that the current fax number is (703) 872-9306. Thus, with the exception of this paragraph, this Amendment is a resend of the paper sent on November 3, 2003 to the 305-7718 fax number.

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Respectfully submitted,



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